



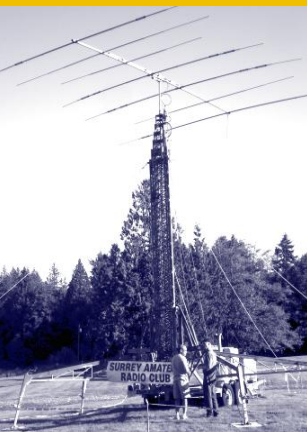
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The SARC Communicator is published monthly for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news and other information.



SARC Field Day 2011

Will ICS Expedite Planning?

Field Day 2011 will be held the weekend of June 25th. SARC will be joining forces with SEPARS and LARA (Langley) in a joint effort to better our previous standings. The first planning meeting was held on April 20th with an adequate (but not spectacular) turnout of members from the three organizations.

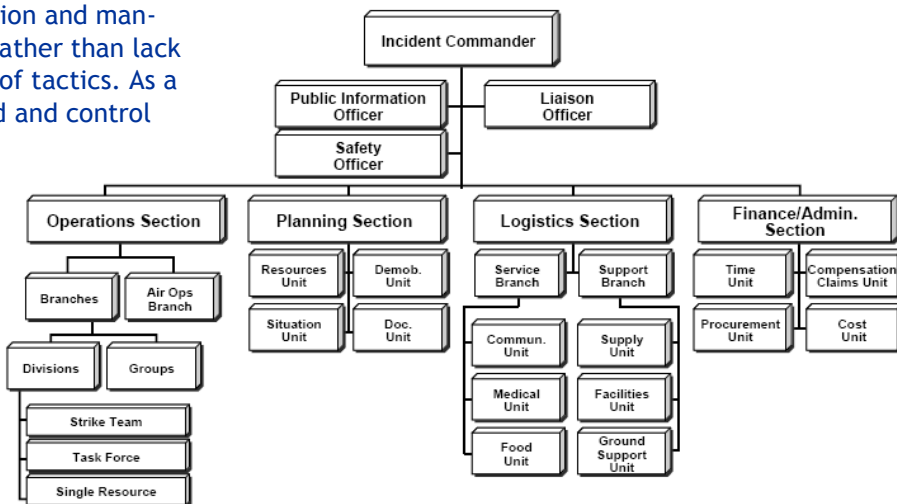
It was agreed that this year we would organize Field Day using the principles of the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS integrates personnel, policies, procedures, facilities, and equipment into a common organizational structure designed to improve emergency response operations of all types and complexities. ICS is a modular, flexible and scalable response organization providing a common framework within which people can work together effectively.

ICS was originally developed in the 1970s during massive wildfire suppression efforts in California and following a series of catastrophic wildfires in California's urban interface. Property damage ran into the millions, and many people died or were injured. Studies determined that response problems often related to communication and management deficiencies rather than lack of resources or failure of tactics. As a result, a new command and control paradigm was developed to provide a consistent, integrated framework for the management of all incidents from small incidents to large, multi-agency emergencies. ICS is now used by almost all emergency response agencies in North America and beyond.

As Amateur Radio often plays an important role in disasters, the SEPARS Executive decided at the Annual General Meeting in 2010 to embrace ICS and to integrate it into their planning, training and response in the belief that it would better prepare members to work within an emergency response environment.

With the benefit of a Gaming grant, SEPARS has sponsored two basic ICS-100 courses to date and an advanced ICS-200 course in which 14 members took part. Another ICS-100 course will be presented on June 4th at the Surrey Fire Services Training Centre. The course is free for SEPARS members but there is a fee of \$10 for non-members to cover course materials and refreshments. The course content is tailored to Amateur Radio. If you would like to participate, contact John Schouten via email at VE7TI@separs.net

The use of ICS will be an experiment and will be kept to its simplest form. Because ICS can be tailored to any event that requires planning, it is well suited to the complexities of



Basic ICS Organizational Chart

(Continued on page 3)

Meeting Minutes

Gord Kirk VE7GRK—SARC Secretary



May 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location: PREOC

Attendees: 21 people in attendance.

Welcome

Meeting opened at 7:10 pm by John Brodie VA7XB. Reminder that the next meeting is the AGM with election of officers.

John presented the agenda with no additions/new business added.

John will be attending the upcoming BC Coordination Council meeting May 29th at the NSARC site. Any interested members who want to attend should notify John.

Financial report

Scott VE7HA presented the financial report and it was approved.

Ham Class Report

All 18 students have now passed their exams.

Newbie Seminar

Gary VE7AS did an exceptional job and this new ham seminar was well received.

Advanced Ham Class

It is recommended that interested members join with Delta Club members to ensure there are enough participants to have the class go ahead. Delta has a class tentatively scheduled in the fall.

SEPARS Report

SEPARS joined SARC at the newbie seminar. They were able to introduce SEPARS to the group of new Hams.

On May 19 the next workshop is happening. Time: 19:00 Location at the 76th and King George site. Contact Kelvin VA7KPH for further info.

May 27 (Friday Morning time TBA) An EOC activation exercise will also be occurring.

SEPARS will be joining with SARC and LARA at the upcoming Field Day (last weekend in June).

Field Day

Grandview Heights School is the location (20/176). Next planning meeting is May 18th. Everyone is encouraged to attend this June weekend event.

Swap Meet

Sullivan Heights is the location, indoors this year on Aug 21st. We are having a raffle again this year. \$2 each, a book of ten is \$20.00. All club members are encouraged to take a book and sell them. This is an official registered lottery and a major fund raiser for the club. Bill Little VA7ZBL is the contact to get your ticket books to sell.

Lottery Grant Project

The Antennas have arrived, and the repeaters have been ordered. There is more still to buy for installation. The Concord tower site location is still moving along. A draft agreement on site installation is being discussed at a meeting happening tomorrow.

Club Name Badges

John VA7XB is placing a order. If anyone wants to order one let John know in the next couple of days. Contact John at va7xb@rac.ca

Website Upgrade

The first round of approvals has happened. We still need to push the old content onto the new site, and then it must be moved to a new server with more space. A final review of the new site by the executive will occur then it will go live. Thanks to Susan VE7IIE, Hui VE7YXG and the rest of the review team.

SEPARS Presentation

SEPARS Kelvin Hall gave a brief overview of SEPARS and how to join. Further information is available at the SEPARS website www.separs.net

Evening Presentations.

Several individuals gave presentations on various Grab N GO kits.

Brian Farrar from [VECTOR](http://www.vector.ca) gave a presentation on their Grab n Go kits designed for the City of Vancouver.

Kelvin VA7KPH described his personal Go Kit

Fred VE7IO described the SEPARS Grab n Go kit designed for the City of Surrey.

Fred VE7MPI displayed his personal go kit, which included solar power.

Bill VA7ZBL displayed a go bag created for sailing, including GPS and a Marine Radio.

SEPARS Report

Kelvin Hall VA7KPH



Monthly exercise with Langley

The exercise with Langley is suspended for May as we will be providing communications for the EOC exercise at Firehall #1 on May 27th. The June exercise is cancelled as SEPAR will be participating in Field Day. This is an excellent opportunity to practice emergency communications and meet your colleagues from Langley.

The SEPARS Executive as of the April 7th AGM

The following is the 2011 -2012 executive:

President - Kelvin Hall, VA7KPH

Vice President - Bill Gipps, VE7XS

Secretary - Jay Melvin, VE7OFH

Treasurer - Paulette Schouten, VE7VPE

Directors - Don Hamilton, VA7GL

Alan Saunders, VA7BIT

Drew Elvins, VA7DRW

John Schouten, VE7TI

Dan Barnscher (for the City)

Jocelyne Colbert (for the City)

School workshop

The workshop with Pacific Heights on May 11th was a success thanks to all the volunteers. The upcoming workshops are the Newton Library in June and two other schools before the end of the calendar year.

EOC Exercise

SEPAR will be providing communications for the EOC exercise on May 27th. The exercise will be at Firehall #1 and start at 0900 hrs to 1200 hrs.

Monthly Workshops

The monthly SEPAR workshops continue to provide all SEPAR members with training and an opportunity to get to know each other. Workshops will continue in May and June and then take a summer break for July and August. Workshops will commence again in September 2011.

Weekly Net

UHF practice message handling has been added to the weekly SEPARS net. As well as a practice message on VHF simplex messages are sent on 446.100 simplex and 443.775+ (110.9) after the VHF messages.

Check in if you have not become a regular participant.

Our new Communications Vests

At the March workshop 12 vests were handed out and everyone was very pleased with the jackets. Please remember to wear your SEPAR vest in all upcoming events and if you have not received your vest please contact the SEPAR executive to see if you qualify.

220 Mhz Radios

John Brodie has completed the brackets for mounting the 220 Mhz antennas on the tripods for the grab and go kits. We now have a 220 Mhz radio installed at the radio room and it seems to be working well. Accessing the repeaters in Vancouver, North Vancouver and Maple Ridge was easily accomplished.

The next step is to mount the 220 radios in the three grab and go kits

73

*Kelvin Hall VA7KPH SEPARS President and Coordinator
Fred VE7IO Past SEPARS coordinator*

(Continued from page 1)

Field Day. Aside from being a contest and an opportunity to socialize, Field Day is after all a 24 hour emergency preparedness exercise designed to demonstrate that amateur radio can set up anywhere and operate effectively, and be self sufficient without reliance on commercial infrastructure.

We encourage you to join us at Field Day, even if just to have a look at how it operates. Our site this year will be at the former school grounds situated at 176th Street and 20th Avenue in Surrey. We begin setup on Friday, June 24th at noon and will begin 24-hour continuous operations on Saturday morning at 11am local time.

Radio-Active

Susan Eshelman VE7IIE



Our member profile this month introduces a man who needs little introduction: **John Schouten, VE7TI** has been an active member of SARC for several years, and currently serves as a Director on the Executive, and as Editor of this

Communicator newsletter. Now in his early 60's, John has been a licensed ham operator for more than 18 years, and a dedicated representative of the hobby.

Towards the end of his 30 year police career, John served as Deputy Chief of the Vancouver Police Department's Support Services Division. This role was a natural fit with John's interest in Amateur Radio and emergency communication. For years, John was heavily involved with the VECTOR program (Vancouver Emergency Community Telecommunications Organization), a group of licensed hams and other communications volunteers involved in Vancouver city's emergency program.

On the SARC side, John has also been a strong advocate for the emergency communications aspects of Amateur Radio, and has played a key role in the relationship between SARC and SEPAR. John also serves on the Board of SEPARS at present.

John's belief in the importance of Amateur Radio, as he described it nearly eight years ago in an [interview by the Vancouver Courier](#), has proved to be more true today than ever:

"For his part, John Schouten suspects the growing number of public services relying on amateur radio will compel Ottawa to protect the medium in years to come. "...more and more emergency response teams are enlisting hams as back-ups." Schouten says amateur radio is too vital for governments to ignore. "We may be living in a digital world, but hams are here to stay."

Considering the progress of Amateur Radio's integration at the community level, John notes that over the last fifteen years, most ham clubs have developed a presence with their local emergency support providers. City and municipal officials are increasingly aware of the need to have an emergency plan. Ham clubs and individual members like

John Schouten have helped to educate them and establish efficient emergency communications systems.

Of course, some clubs have greater community presence than others in this area of the hobby. Whether the focus is here, or on the technology and experimentation aspects of Amateur Radio, the participation of ham clubs in their local communities always results in reciprocal benefit.

John's personal interests in Amateur Radio have gotten him involved in many club activities over the years, including several Field Days as a representative of VECTOR, and more recently with SARC and SEPAR. He's participated in numerous community events like the Sun Run and Santa Claus Parade, and believes that such events afford a great opportunity for training and experience, because they simulate so many unique circumstances that a ham operator might face under emergency circumstances as well as Dx'ing or contesting.

John continues to be a vocal advocate for the ham community's visibility in our public schools, and believes we must maintain that presence in order to attract the interest of the younger generations - SARC's future members. In this digital age of effortless global communications across the Internet, John finds there are still many youth interested in ham technology and who are more experimentally inclined. With a little effort, they can be convinced that Amateur Radio is worth getting involved in, and they quickly find ways to put the hobby to use in their own lives.

Most recently, John has enjoyed listening to conversations between young Canucks fans, talking with hockey buffs in Nashville. He also points to the success of the weekly youth Net out of Seattle, which is run by teenage hams and a fourteen year-old Net controller. John is inspired by the tremendous initiative these youth demonstrate in applying ham radio to their own interests. Likewise, we can be sure that our Surrey youth are inspired by John Schouten's presence in the schools, as he demonstrates ham technology with SARC co-members.

John is fortunate to be joined in the hobby by his wife Paulette, VE7VPE (VA7PMS on bad days). She has also taken an active role in the ham hobby, serving as past president for the Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (CLARA). John's daughter Adriana, and more recently his son Martin have also become licensed hams, and we can look forward to the prospect of John's grandchildren becoming SARC members one day.

(Continued on page 5)

Amateurs in Action

An Opportunity To Assist Mongolian Hams

As many of you may know, I am currently working in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. I am seeking assistance in acquiring at least one VHF repeater, associated bits and pieces and an IRLP node for Ulaanbaatar. This will be the first Ham repeater in Mongolia and will service approximately 1.2 million people in the city of UB. The potential impact on Amateur Radio and the community here is enormous.

I recently met with Bat (JT1CS), the Secretary of the Mongolian Radio Sports Federation. The MRSF is going through the same sort of difficulties Amateur Radio clubs are experiencing around the world....specifically, difficulty in generating and maintaining interest in amateur radio and in bringing new people into the hobby. They have been quite successful in developing interest in Radio Direction Finding and High Speed telegraphy competition.

One of the first things I asked was whether the club had a repeater operational in UB. The answer was no, although they have talked about it and have earmarked a couple of pretty good locations on the mountainside overlooking the city. The problem is simply one of financial resources. Radio equipment is expensive here and all of it is imported. There appears to be very little surplus equipment in-country although I am following up on some leads with respect to a local company (RADCOM) that does sell Vertex/ Motorola/Kenwood equipment in-country.

Currently the MRSF has encouraged people to purchase VHF handhelds however they are currently restricted to simplex frequencies and coverage is obviously spotty depending on the area and the equipment being used. Generating interest in VHF communication in general and creating personal value in having a ham ticket is limited by not having pervasive access to VHF communication.

Worse yet, to generate an interest in emergency communication and benefit from the value and positive public relations that EMCOMM can generate within the community, not to mention the government, is virtually impossible without solid and wide ranging coverage.

UB is unique in that the city of 1.2 million people (some estimates are as high as 1.5MM) is in a valley that has 2 parallel mountain ridges to the North and South. VHF coverage in this corridor is potentially excellent given the right location(s) and equipment. Not only is the topology of the area ideally suited to VHF repeater coverage but it is also well suited to a BCWARN backbone high speed data network (10 - 50Mbps) for provision of Internet and VOIP services to the repeater site(s). A DStar repeater system would also work very well in this environment.

I look at this as a great opportunity to make a contribution to the local hams of Mongolia, the community in general through potential development of an EMCOMM capability and to demonstrate the tremendous global fraternity of Amateur Radio we are all so fortunate to be part of.

I'm looking for ideas, suggestions and ideally contributions of equipment, material and funding to acquire and ship (if required) equipment into UB to establish the very first Amateur radio repeater in the country. Furthermore, I'd like to link the repeater into the global IRLP network to open Mongolia to the rest of the worldwide ham radio community and to open the rest of the world to hams in Mongolia that are VHF only.

These are exciting possibilities and an opportunity to do a good thing for Amateur Radio in Mongolia and for the people of Ulaanbaatar. Please feel free to pass this note on to others you feel may have ideas or be interested in assisting this project in any way.

I can be reached at:

Email: Neil.king@live.ca

Skype: va7dx_neil

Mobile: +976 9901 7837

VOIP: +1-877-331-9869 x1306 (during working hours)

Neil JT1RF / VA7DX

(Continued from page 4)

When not involved in Amateur Radio pursuits, John enjoys carpentry, cabinet-making, and RV'ing, including annual treks to Palm Springs. Not surprisingly, John and Paulette stay in touch with their Palm Springs pals

throughout the year via ham radio. Having a Dutch background, John also enjoys talking with contacts in the Netherlands. And as anyone who meets John Schouten will quickly recognize, hams in the Netherlands undoubtedly love talking with him, too.

QRM

News Clips

New Global Emergency Communications Network launches

For the past year or so, there has been a lot of activity going on behind the scenes to establish an alternative international amateur radio emergency communications network that will serve various communities and authorities during and after disasters.

The team comprises a network of seasoned and experienced operators who have put together a totally new concept in emergency communication!

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Global Emergency Communications Network - or GEM for short, which has come into operation.

The group will operate on the normal international emergency frequencies as stipulated during various Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (GAREC) network conferences and will also be available on the Echo-link Conference *KA1AAA* for passing messages!

The Charter which formulates the activities of the group is available on our website for perusal. A new protocol we have introduced is the appointment or acceptance of members. Initially any person who would like to join the network will be accepted as a Supporter.

Once the Supporter has been 'interviewed' via e-mail and other means he/she will be evaluated and then possibly accepted as a member. We wish to make it very clear that although we acknowledge your interest in joining GEM there are certain criteria that have to be met.

These include the following: - Your availability at any time to be called up, the equipment available to you for emergency communication, your specific interest in emergency communication, your very specific qualifications as to how we can fit you into the organisation and how often you can log in on a daily basis to cover all eventualities on our various means of presence!

Passing messages is one thing but being able to get the message through - whatever the circumstances, is the critical factor! We would also like to establish what other means are at your disposal!

GEM has no outright head or leader - yet the responsibility of leadership at any given time is shared by either the founding members or any person accepting a call at any time prior to establishing a network from where we will establish a formal network to handle any emergency emerging from that initial call!

It is GEM's intention to appoint various sub teams and leaders placed strategically around the Globe so we can monitor our various sites on a 24/7 basis. We are also

developing a bulk SMS system whereby initiation of an emergency or call to respond, can happen a lot quicker than under normal circumstances!

We tried this after the Japanese March 11 quake/tsunami. After one bulk SMS around the Globe, we had a net going within 15 minutes of the call going out!

If ever professionalism in amateur radio was an underlying statement, GEM endeavours to meet that challenge. GEM is a young organisation but once you have evaluated our operating procedures, you will be sure that you are joining a group that has the best interest of amateur radio and the community at the forefront. We are making use of tried and trusted means of communication which is available to serve the international community.

GEM will coordinate and work with any similar organisations around the globe that have the same enthusiasm for emergency communications at heart.

Please visit us at www.gem-int.org for more information.

Francois Botha - ZS6BUU

HamNation

Leo Laporte is adding a little ham flavor to his online techie stewpot. Legendary live sound pioneer and ham radio expert, Bob Heil, is set to premier a new netcast show on Leo Laporte's TwiT.tv network. Called "HamNation," it will focus on equipment, applications, tips and general information for the ham radio enthusiast. For those who know Bob Heil, it won't be any surprise that his first guest will be rock star, friend, and avid amateur radio operator, Joe Walsh, who also wrote the theme music.

Heil explains, "I have been a fan of Leo Laporte's for a long time and recently appeared on his 'Triangulation 8' show. We had a blast, and much to my delight, he asked me to develop a show for and about ham radio. Since the early 1900s much of the ham radio operator's focus has been building and experimenting with their equipment. Many of today's radios are computer controlled, thus attracting new users to the hobby. Even in this day of instant Internet communications, ham radio is still the premier communication link whether it's for storm chasers or talking to your friends around the globe. This new TWiT.tv show will bring the existing and new users together."

The show launches on May 24 at 8PM CDT at <http://live.twit.tv/>. Shows are free and can be subscribed to via iTunes or other netcast/podcast programs.

— Paul McLane

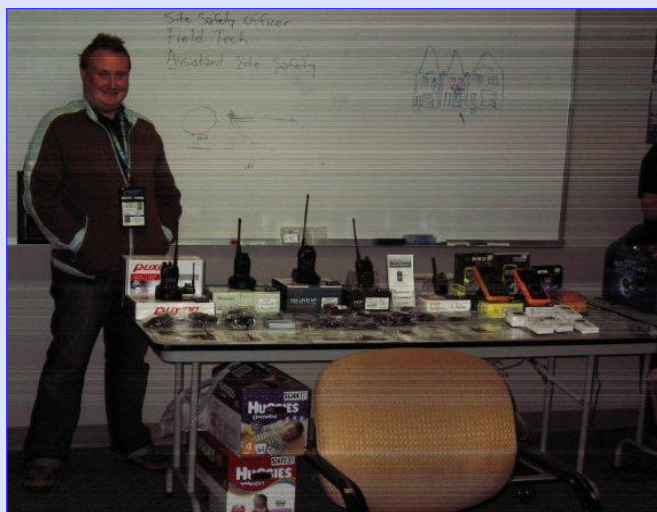
News You Can Use

What's Happening in Amateur Radio



Two very happy Hams... Arthur VE7SIE and Nicole VE7PET have had their BASIC licence for a few years now. Both have worked very hard to get there, and have tried many times to upgrade to gain their HF honours. Early this month, their goals were met when they both achieved sufficient scores to gain their BASIC with honours at an exam session at my home, both earning better than an 80 percentile on their exams. Arthur and Nicole are looking forward to getting an opportunity to operate HF now that they are qualified. You might hear Arthur on 2 metres now, but Nicole has yet to get equipment to get on the air, something I hope her friends in the Surrey and Delta clubs might be able to help her with.

Congratulations for a job well done. Gary, VE7AS.



Bill Dick, VE7IKX (below left) from Fleetwood Digital was one of a couple vendors at the recent New Ham Seminar. Bill displayed his new line of Chinese Handhelds and inexpensive multi-meters.



Representation from Burnaby Radio, Com-West Radio, RAC, SEPARs and Creative Imaging were there to talk to the 20 or so participants at the May 7th Newbie Seminar. In the background (right) Jay is explaining D-star and demonstrating how that system works. We had new Hams come from Whistler, North Shore, Richmond, Maple Ridge and Abbotsford to attend this Saturday seminar to find out what to do next after earning their BASIC(+) license. SARC was the sponsoring club and Gary VE7AS the seminar facilitator.

Some of the recent graduates of the SARC's Spring 2011 BASIC Ham Course. 75% of the class achieved 80% or better on their test and have full access to all Ham bands. In this class, Joshua Rasmussen was our youngest new Ham at the age of 14.

And finally...

We now have VA7SRY as one of the SARC call signs. This makes for a good contest or 2nd repeater call or now we could have two club portable stations running at the same time... SAR & SRY!

Last Name	First Name	CALL
Campbell	Kyle	VA7FQT
Haixuan	Chen	VA7CHX
Matasi	Lou	VA7DLL
McLeod	Dan	VA7DDY
Melanson	Carl	VA7HTT
Miskovic	Slobodan	VA7SLO
Morrison	Bruce	VA7BRM
Neithercut	Keith	VA7EMD
Porter	David	VE7ZOD
Rasmussen	Joshua	VE7JRI
Rasmussen	Brent	VE7XBR
Roberts	Al	VA7AGR
Rueff	Brett	VA7NFW
Salem	Rod	VE7AYL
Thomson	David	VA7THO
Toews	Matt	VA7TWZ
Shannon	Grant	VE7GMN

Application Notes

Gary Skett VE7AS



I have been teaching basic Amateur courses now for 32 years, as of this year, and there has been an amazing and fascinating amount of change in our hobby over that time. One aspect hasn't changed much -- learning the Morse Code. It still takes hours of practice over many months.

When I first started, Tom Mitchell VE7TOM and I made a 6-cassette CW learning series and sold about 500 sets through Dollard Electronics and Glenwood Trading, today known as Com-West and Burnaby Radio. And there as been countless hours spent on the air with practice sessions as well.

Today, we have computer software, CDs and MP3 files of CW practice. Included in this group is W1AW's on-air practice and qualifying runs - see <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule> - for details.

And even though you can use your computer to key your HF or multi-mode transceiver through your sound card and interface via a com port or USB port or through your mic connection, it wasn't really CW, but "audio" CW where the receiver needed to be on SSB or FM to hear that. I have collected a lot of practice sessions on CD's and MP3 files and wanted to be able to key various transceivers using the audio output from any computer into the key jack on any transceiver so equipped.

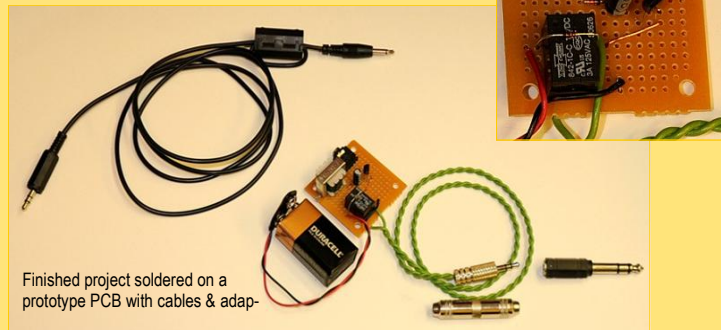
Theoretically, one just needs to run the output of your speaker(s) through a diode rectifier and feed the DC result into the key jack. But nothing is rarely that simple. Keying or keyer circuits work on either providing a ground or a positive voltage to turn on and off the keying circuit. And you may also want to isolate your interface from the speaker output and/or the transceiver.

So I used this circuit to achieve that goal. D1 is the recti-

fier, the 10µf cap is the filter that basically takes the audio in, and produces the DC switching voltage on the output to turn the 2N2222 all on or all off in direct response to the CW audio tone from the amplified speaker headphone jack.

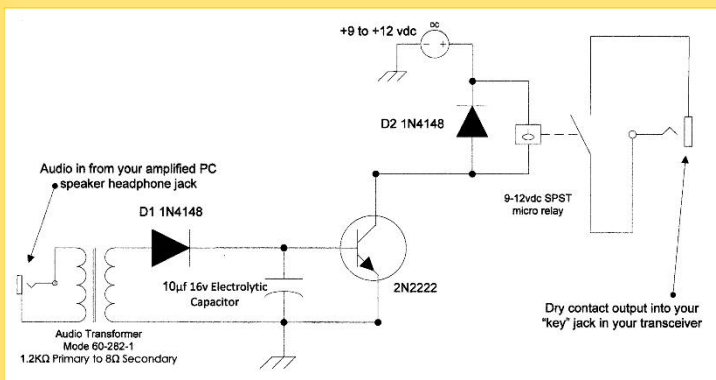
The audio transformer was needed to raise the speaker output to a level that would provide the appropriate bias voltage into the base of the transistor, and I wanted to power a mini reed relay to provide any transceiver or keyer with dry contacts, just like a key would provide. D2 is across the voltage contacts of the relay to provide some back EMF protection for the 2N2222.

The value of the capacitor will affect how fast you can send code. Something between 2 and 10 µf seems to be ok for speeds up to 22 wpm... too little and the relay gets sloppy, too much and the relay stays on, so you'll have to experiment with the value. As always, the values I pick are directly dependant on what is in my spare parts bins in my workshop. 1N914, 1N4148 and even 1N4007 diodes should work, again it depends on what you have in stock. If you buy new, all parts can be purchased from RP Electronics. Most of the parts come in "packages of 10", so you may spend about \$15 to make one... but you'll have diodes, transistors and caps left over to make other projects.



I plugged the input though a stereo to mono 3.5mm cable into the headphone output jack on my amplified soundcard speakers. To try it on the air, I put on one of my audio code practice CD's and played it through Windows Media Player. The relay contacts were plugged into my ¼" key jack. Nothing happened... sigh... should have worked!

What I forgot to do was crank up the volume control to get the drive I needed for a crisp on/off control of the relay - not all speaker outputs are created equal, as I find out. The test lasted for about 20 minutes and it worked perfectly through both my Flex 3000 and my FT-736R in the CW mode at speeds from 5 to 22 wpm. Also tried MP3 digi-



tal audio files and a simple CW practice software program I downloaded off the Internet. It all worked perfectly and I am now ready to hold CW practice on the air again, where I don't have to send by hand for extended periods of time - if I don't want to. At the moment, you might catch Chris VA7CMZ and I on 144.100 MHz CW mode almost every Monday from about 2000 to 2100 practicing at about 10wpm. You are welcome to join us. No FM CW at the moment.

For practice sessions using VHF FM, like I did last season after the VHF Club net, I will be feeding the same com-

puter audio output from my headphone jack on my PC speakers into the data-in jack on the back of my FT-736R. However this time I will be using a Mode Electronics 60-281 -1 audio transformer to correct the speaker output impedance to more closely match the input impedance of the data input of the radio. This provides a cleaner audio signal bypassing the mic amp circuit and should sound better in the FM mode. Perhaps starting in the Fall and going into early Spring, I'll broadcast practice sessions again after the Tuesday Net, but maybe on the club's lesser used UHF repeater.

Snapshot

May SARC Presentation



SEPARS' large multi-mode Go kit shown by Fred VE7IO



A light and portable VHF kit with solar power charging, constructed by Fred VE7MPI



VECTOR's larger packet-capable kit utilizing two power supplies, by Brian VE7BFY



A typical assembly of items useful for a boater, displayed by Bill VA7ZBL



VHF/HF kit in functional attractive packaging by Kelvin VA7KPH



Innovation was the keyword at SARC's May 14th meeting where five Grab & Go Kits were proudly displayed

SARC President's Comments

John Brodie VA7XB



Countdown to the AGM...

SARC's Annual General Meeting is coming up soon, June 8th to be exact. The most important part of the AGM is the election of new Officers. The Bylaws of the Club require that we elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. In recent years, we have also chosen to elect 6 Directors who work with the 4 Executive members in shaping the policy of the club and taking on specific duties. That tradition will logically continue, although there is no constitutional reason why the number of Directors cannot be greater or less than 6. Don Hamilton VA7GL, our VP, is heading up a nomination committee to identify members who would be willing to stand for any of the Executive positions or the Board of Directors. If you are contacted by Don regarding nominations, I hope that you will seriously consider running for a position and getting more involved with the business of running the organization.

SARC is in enviable shape in almost every respect, and it is generally recognized that we have one of the most active clubs in the Lower Mainland. Our memberships currently stands at 86, the bank account is in sound condition and, most importantly, our ranks include a number of seasoned members who have taken responsibility for the most critical activities and managed them well. Think of the much admired "Communicator" publication, an impressive new website (not yet public, but first revealed to members at the May 14th meeting), and an ambitious training/licensing program. We have made a creditable showing in previous years' Field Day competition and are going all out to win this year at a first-class new location. We own two portable radio towers and antennas that are second to none. Our membership proudly includes a RAC Director and QSL Bureau manager. After moving our meetings around in past years to various unsatisfactory locations, we are now settled into an excellent venue (the PREOC). For other meetings, Surrey Fire Services has made available their Central Training Facility. The Club sponsors several successful events each year, such as the summer flea market, a Foxhunt, Field Day, and a Christmas party and is active in the occasional contest. Several of our meeting speakers have been borrowed by other clubs for presentations at their

meetings. SARC's activities and programs are intentionally varied with the aim of appealing to both new and more experienced members and attendance at these events has been gratifying. The basic licensing class has graduated 18 new amateurs so far this year and another class is scheduled for the Fall. These newly licensed amateurs are already making a positive contribution to the club and their enthusiasm provides the potential to grow and expand the impact that SARC can make in promoting the hobby. SARC has been successful in its recent application to the Lottery Corporation for funding of its new repeaters and an excellent high-rise site has been offered to us through SARC's affiliation with SEPARS and the Surrey Emergency Program. The relationship of SARC to SEPARS has benefited both organizations by cooperative sharing of manpower, equipment and expertise which has allowed each group to build on the strengths of each other.

Although these successes have been gratifying, they have not come without a lot of hard work - many of our members must be thanked for their very significant contributions. We must now consider carefully how the success can be maintained and the Club continue to prosper. Now that the AGM is upon us, it leads me to reflect on a personal issue, i.e. my position as President of SARC and what role I intend to play in the future. Since joining SARC around 2004, I have held several positions on the Executive and, as such, been intimately involved with the affairs of the club. A club can stagnate if it doesn't evolve and take advantage of new ideas that come with a change in leadership. When I got involved with SARC, Heather and I had no grandchildren, but now we have four and I wish to be involved in their lives. Also, we plan to move our abode this Spring and will be occupied with that task for several months. For those reasons, I feel it is time to step aside as President and give others an opportunity to shape the organization according to their vision. In turning over the reins to others, I will commit to giving my full support to the new Executive and Directors and I do plan to be available to help with events and activities to the extent that my ability and time permit. If it is consistent with the wish of the new Executive, I will continue managing the purchase of new repeater equipment and its installation at the Concord Pacific high-rise. I am stating my intentions at this time, so that other members have ample opportunity to consider whether they might wish to stand for President, or any of the other available positions.

DOWN THE LOG...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wednesday (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs local at PEP PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue, Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0830 local
ABC Country Restaurant located
at 600 - 7380 King George Blvd.
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

Announcements & News

Next SARC Meeting
Wed., June 8th, for the AGM

SEPARS Monthly Workshop
Third Thursday, 7 to 9:30pm
Rm. 214, 13569 76th Ave.

ICS-100 Training
Sat, June 4th 9-12, Fire Training
Centre. Contact John VE7TI

Field Day Training

Sat, June 11th 9-12 Fire Training
Centre. Contact Fred VE7IO

Field Day!

Setup Fri, June 24 10am-176th
Street at 20th Avenue, Surrey.
Contact John VA7XB

On the Web ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch
your e-mail for announcements
of events, monthly meetings and
training opportunities. These
announcements may also be
found on our web page.

SARC hosts an Amateur
Radio net each Tuesday eve-
ning at 8 PM. Please tune in
to the VE7RSC repeater at
147.360 MHz (+600 KHz)
Tone=110.9, also accessible

on IRLP node 1980 and Echolink node
496228. On UHF we operate a re-
peater on 443.775MHz (+5MHz)
Tone=110.9 and IRLP node 1463.
Coming soon, a repeater at
224.000MHz (-1.6MHz).

VIA THE WEB

www.ve7sar.net

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VE7YXC

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